

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06850 161351Z
ACTION AID-59

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 6850

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, PK
SUBJECT: PL-480 TITLE I BELLMON DETERMINATION

REFS: (A) STATE 177091, (B) ISLAMABAD 6674

1. REGARDING SEC. 401 (B)(1), COUNTRY BELIEVES
ADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES EXIST FOR THE RELATIVELY SMALL
QUANTITY OF WHEAT (15,000 TONS) APRIL 10 AMENDMENT WOULD
BRING. PROCUREMENT OF PROBABLY NOT MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION
TONS FROM LAST HARVEST PLUS MORE OR LESS SHIP-TO-MILL
MOVEMENT OF CURRENT IMPORTS SHOULD MEAN NO PROBLEM WITH
STORAGE IF THIS WHEAT IS SHIPPED FAIRLY PROMPTLY.

2. REGARDING SEC. 401(B)(2), THE SHIPMENT OF ONLY 15,000
TONS WILL NOT RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL DISINCENTIVE TO
DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. IN OTHER COMMUNICATIONS WE HAVE
PROPOSED AND ARE PROPOSING THAT LARGER SHIPMENTS OF
WHEAT OVER THE YEAR BE MORE FIRMLY TIED TO DEFINITE ACTIONS
ON PART OF GOP TO REMOVE CURRENT DISINCENTIVE TO IN-
CREASED PRODUCTION.

3. KARACHI PORT CURRENTLY HAS TWO SHIPS AT WHEAT
BERTH BUT DISCHARGE IS VERY SLOW DUE IN PART TO
ONSET OF RAINY SEASON. RATE OF DISCHARGE IN RECENT
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WEEKS HAS NOT GONE MUCH OVER 4,000 TONS A DAY AND ON
SOME DAYS HAS BEEN NIL. MUST ALSO BE RECOGNIZED THAT
RECENT HARVEST HAS TAKEN THE PRESSURE OFF THE GOP TO
MOVE THE WHEAT THROUGH THE PORT AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.
OFF PORT THERE ARE STILL THREE SHIPS (50,000, 9,500
AND 8,700 TONS) CARRYING 68,300 TONS THOUGH SOME OF
THIS MAY HAVE BEEN LIGHTENED ALREADY. IN ANY EVENT ALL

OF THIS SHOULD BE DISCHARGED BY THE TIME THE FIRST NEW PURCHASES (CCC WHEAT) ARRIVE ABOUT MID-AUGUST.

4. WHEAT ARRANGEMENTS TO DATE WERE LISTED THIRD PARA OF REF B. BECAUSE FAC SHIPMENT USUALLY COME LATER IN THE YEAR AND THE PURCHASES FROM TURKEY WERE UNCERTAIN, THE ONLY REAL SHIPMENTS WE SEE COMING AT PRESENT ARE THE CCC PURCHASES. WE ASSUME REPORTED PURCHASES OF 200,000 TONS MADE ABOUT JULY 1 WILL START ARRIVING HERE ABOUT MID-AUGUST. THE RECENT EXTENSIONS OF THE DELIVERY DATE FOR CCC WHEAT TO SEPTEMBER 20 MEANS THESE PURCHASES COULD BE ARRIVING TILL ABOUT NOVEMBER 1, HENCE, 450,000 TONS WOULD BE ARRIVING OVER A PERIOD OF TWO AND ONE-HALF MONTHS OR AT A RATE OF 180,000 TONS A MONTH COMPARED TO A PORT HANDLING CAPACITY OF 200,000 TONS. THIS THEN LEAVES ROOM FOR 15,000 TONS OF TITLE I WHEAT.

5. AS MENTIONED ABOVE THE PORT CAPACITY MUST BE CONSIDERED ABOUT 200,000 TONS PER MONTH. THE PAST SEASON'S EXPERIENCE CONFIRMS THAT FIGURE FOR EVEN THOUGH THE DAILY DISCHARGE RATE SOMETIMES WENT AS HIGH AS 13,000 TONS, THE SYSTEM COULD NOT MOVE THE WHEAT TO CONSUMING AREAS THAT FAST. ANY INCREASE IN THAT MONTHLY CAPACITY FIGURE WOULD REQUIRE DRAMATIC CHANGES ALL THE WAY FROM THINGS SUCH AS LABOR RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THE PORT TO RAILWAY OPERATION AT TURNAROUND POINTS IN RAWALPINDI OR LAHORE.

6. CLEARLY ANY FURTHER DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF THE PENDING PA WILL MAKE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT LATER IN THE SEASON WHEN HEAVIER PURCHASES ARE SCHEDULED. WE URGE IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF THE PA SO THAT THE WHEAT MIGHT ARRIVE HERE IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER.
HUMMEL

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